

Judge Turns Down Rewald Bail Cut

By Charles Memminger
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Ronald R. Rewald, his arms hanging limp at his sides, his head drooping dejectedly, sat motionless yesterday while his attorney argued that his massive \$10 million bail on two theft charges should be reduced.

After a two-hour hearing, however, Judge Robert Chang refused to lower the bail, ruling that it was needed to assure that Rewald would appear at his court trial on the theft charges.

Those charges stem from complaints by two investors of his bankrupt company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, that Rewald spent the \$300,000 they invested.

For the first time, details of Rewald's attempted suicide were made public yesterday when police reports were entered as evidence during the bail hearing.

To show that Rewald might attempt anything, including suicide, to avoid facing trial, city Deputy Prosecutor Peter Carlisle entered as evidence the police report of Rewald's suicide attempt. The report included a copy of a note police said Rewald wrote before he attempted suicide.

ACCORDING to the report, an assistant manager at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel was making rou-

time rounds at about 4 p.m. on July 30 to make sure guests had checked out as scheduled when she came across a horrible scene in Room 1632.

The room was covered with blood, and a man lay on the bathroom floor, his head propped up against the tub. She thought he was dead, the report said.

In moments, security officers arrived. One walked up to the man and could see his eyes were open. He asked the man, who was extremely pale and still, if he was all right and the man mumbled something incomprehensible.

The report said that, before an ambulance arrived, a security guard placed a pillow under the man's head and covered him with a blanket. He urged the man to "stay with us," according to the report.

A bloody razor blade protruded from a case on the bathroom counter, it said.

When police arrived, the man mumbled to officers that he wished he were dead, the report says.

A few minutes later the injured man was rushed barely alive to Queen's Hospital and in the days to follow, Ronald Rewald's name and that of his bankrupt company, would become household words.

The report also contained a
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BACK TO PRISON—Ronald R. Rewald is led from Circuit Court by a guard yesterday after a judge refused to reduce his \$10 million bail on theft charges. Rewald is being held in the Oahu Community Correctional Center. —Star-Bulletin Photo by Ken Sakamoto.

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Suicide Note Entered as Evidence

Judge Won't Trim Rewald's Bail

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copy of a handwritten note from Rewald, which was found on a table in the hotel room.

IN THE NOTE, addressed to his wife, Nancy, Rewald wrote, "I want you to know I never did anything to hurt anyone, someday I pray the truth will be known."

The note also contains an apparent reference to Rewald's claims that he or his company was somehow connected to the CIA or some other government agency.

"I started out working for our country and was abandoned when others feared for their jobs," Rewald wrote. "It never dawned on me that I would be left alone and unprotected."

Rewald ended the note, writing "Forgive me", and then directed his wife to contact attorney James L. Starshak "for things."

Starshak said last night that to comment on why Rewald referred Nancy Rewald to his office would violate his attorney-client relationship.

He did say that it was personal

and had nothing to do with Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong. Starshak is known in the legal community to specialize in estate planning and wills.

When police found Rewald in the hotel room, the note was found placed neatly on a table along with \$100 in cash and two credit cards. Police investigators said the only clothes in the room were those that Rewald had "neatly folded over the chairs."

ALTHOUGH Rewald recovered from his wounds after a week in the hospital, authorities apparently still are worried about his mental and physical well-being.

In court yesterday, Rewald, unshaven and dressed in a long-sleeved blue sweatshirt and long pants, barely raised his head throughout the hearing.

Robert Smith, Rewald's civil attorney, said earlier in the day that Rewald was at the lowest emotional ebb and was "crushed" by the experience of the past few weeks.

Peter Wolff, representing Rewald at the bail-reduction hearing, acknowledged that there always is risk of flight for a person who has gone "from the pinnacle of success to the jailhouse in short order."

But Wolff said that, with adequate bail — he suggested \$100,000 — and further restrictions ordered by the court, Judge Chang could be assured that Rewald would appear for his trial and also be free to help track down the assets needed to pay off some 400 investors.

Wolff said there was no evidence that Rewald was a threat to the community, only a threat to himself.

He acknowledged the charges

against Rewald were "not the garden variety" but said the bail was unjustified.

CARLISLE described Rewald as desperate and unpredictable.

With millions of dollars in investors' money unaccounted for and Rewald's international connections, releasing Rewald would be a risk too great for the court to take, Carlisle said.

Carlisle said that, if other investors also file charges and Rewald is convicted of all the possible charges against him, he stands to be sentenced to 500 years in prison.

Wolff said a 500-year sentence is as meaningful as \$10 million bail. He said a person would die "well before 500 years" or before he could raise \$10 million bail.

AFTER LISTENING to testimony from bankruptcy trustee Thomas Hayes, attorney Donald Gelber, an FBI agent and a police detective, Judge Chang said Rewald seemed to have "an unfettered willingness to deal with other people's property without respect for those people."

Chang said that Rewald's apparent attempt to strike deals with authorities to gain his release in return for helping find company assets, implies that there are assets somewhere.

A person in that situation would be willing to put up half of the money he had "to go to Shangri-la — wherever that is — with the rest," Chang said.

Attorney Smith said Rewald is not seeking an agreement to avoid prosecution, but one that would allow him to assist in the finding of company assets without losing his Fifth Amendment guarantees in the process.